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SOME THRILLING WAR PICTURES INSIDE.

JAPANESE CAVALRY ADVANCING TOWARDS KASAN TO ATTACK THE RUSSIANS.

(See "The Story of the War.")

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The 9.37. Complete Story by Owen Oliver.
The Doctor's Romance. Complete Story by A. H. Price.
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HINDE'S HAIR WAVERS
The late Lord Justice Cairns, on the application of Mr. Lewis Edmunds, Q.C., recently granted a perpetual injunction, with costs, restraining a West End Draper from passing off spurious curlers and selling them as "Hinde's" Curlers. Evidence was given by a lady nurse, Mrs. Nobbs of Kensington, that she had suffered damage by such misrepresentation. Ladies are urged to note that no curlers or wavers are genuine unless they bear the name "Hinde's" legibly impressed both on the article and on the box. The present fashion of Undulated hair renders 'Hinde's Wavers' Nos. 18, 19, 20, a necessity at any well-appointed toilet table, and ladies to whom these little appliances may be at present unknown will experience a revelation as to the ease and rapidity with which the day or evening coiffure can be completed. They are sold in 1/- boxes by every dealer in the three Queendoms, or Sample box may be had free by post for thirteen stamps from the proprietors, Hindes Limited, Finsbury, London, E.C.

THE STORY OF THE WAR

Recorded from Week to Week.

THE first land battle has been fought. For the paucity of information from the censored newspaper correspondents, we are in a measure compensated by the very full report from the Russian authorities. Here is the telegram which the Czar has received from General Kuropatkin: "I have the honour respectfully to communicate to your Majesty a report from General Mishtchenko, dated March 28, 10 p.m. He says: For three consecutive days small outposts have attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but their patrols, after contact was established, retired beyond Chong-ju. Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five versts beyond Chong-ju on the 27th, six companies marched towards Kasan on the 28th. They reached Chong-ju at half-past ten in the morning. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind the walls. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied an adjacent height five hundred yards away, and an engagement ensued. In the town were lying in ambush about a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. Our men were reinforced by three companies, and attacked the Japanese with a cross-fire. Notwithstanding this and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their ground, and it was only after a fierce fight of half an hour's duration that they ceased fire and sought refuge in the houses. They hoisted Red Cross flags at two points. Soon afterwards, on the Kasan road, three squadrons of the enemy were seen advancing at full gallop towards the town, which two squadrons succeeded in entering. The third fell back in disorder under the repeated volleys of our troops, men and horses being seen to fall. For an hour afterwards our companies continued to fire on the Japanese in the town, preventing them from leaving the streets and houses to open fire on us. An hour and a half after the beginning of the engagement four companies appeared on the Kasan road hastening up to attack. I gave the order to mount, and the entire force with a covering squadron moved on in perfect order and formed up in line behind the hill. The wounded were placed in front, and the retirement was carried out with the deliberation of parade. The Japanese squadron which had been thrown into disorder was evidently unable promptly to occupy the hill which we had just evacuated, and the infantry arrived too late. The detachment protecting our rearguard arrived quietly at Koaksan, where it made a halt of two hours in order that the wounded might receive attention. At nine o'clock in the evening the force reached Noosan. It is supposed that the Japanese had heavy losses in men and horses. On our side, unfortunately, three officers were severely wounded, and one less seriously. Three Cossacks were killed and twelve wounded, including five seriously. General Mishtchenko bears witness to the excellent conduct and gallantry of the officers and Cossacks, and especially praises the

RUSSIA THRASHES JAPAN — ON PAPER.

This is a cartoon reproduced from a Russian paper. It puts into pictorial form the popular conception (before the war) of the comparative strength of Russia and Japan. The thrashing which Russia is giving Japan has not worked out in actual fact, and it is not too much to surmise that Russian ideas on the point are becoming modified.

THE KING'S GIFT: OSBORNE CONVALESCENT HOME.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

THE KAISER'S TOUR: THE EMPEROR AT CAPRI.

He is Seen Sitting in the Stern of the Boat.

Photo. Rol, Treuca, Paris.

A FLORAL MOTOR-CAR WHICH WON THE SECOND PRIZE AT A RECENT FLOWER FÊTE AT MONTE CARLO.

third company of the Argunsk Regiment, commanded by Krasnostanoff."

Port Arthur Again.

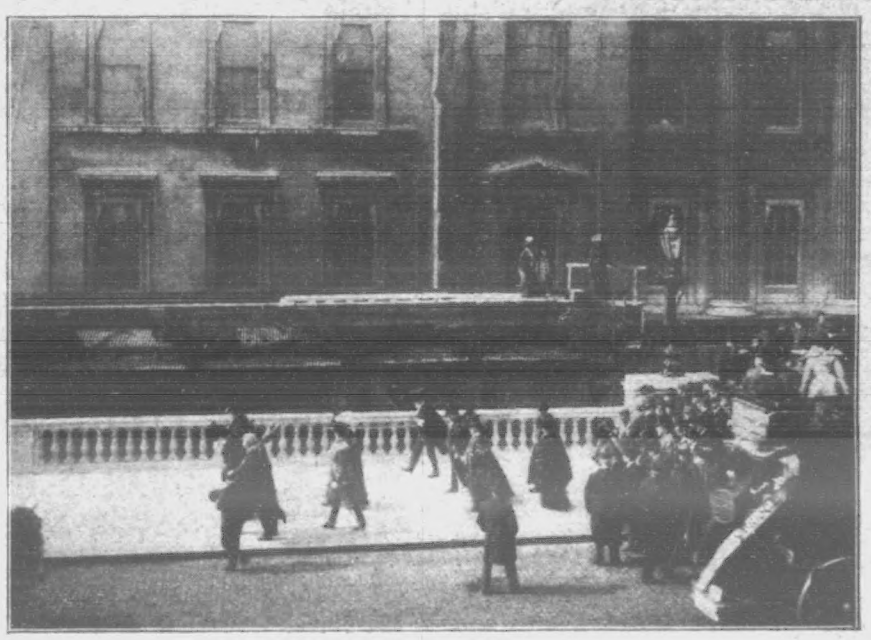
The *Petit Parisien's* Tokio correspondent sends the following report, received from Admiral Togo: "Four steamers advanced near Port Arthur on March 27, at three in the morning, lighted by a searchlight. The *Chiyomaru* sank herself west of Twangkinchan. The *Fukumaru* was hit by a torpedo, and the *Sasikomaru* sank nearer the entrance. The *Yoneyamaru*, hit by a torpedo, sank between the two latter, leaving, however, sufficient passage for the movements of Russian boats. Lieutenant Hirose and three men were killed and nine wounded; the others were saved by a torpedo-boat flotilla. A Russian destroyer was disabled by torpedo-boats. No damage is reported from the eleven destroyers and six torpedo-boats which took part in the action."

Admiral Togo's report of the sixth attack on Port Arthur was read in the Diet last week by the Minister of Marine, who announced that the project of blocking Port Arthur had not been abandoned. Admiral Yamamoto referred in feeling terms to the heroic death of Commander Hirose, and dwelt upon the great difficulty of successfully bottling up Port Arthur. The revival of the martial spirit on the Russian side since the arrival of Admiral Makaroff at Port Arthur was apparent. He expressed the hope that the Russians would boldly emerge from the harbour and attack the Japanese fleet.

The House adopted a resolution supporting the Government's conduct of the war.—Reuter.

Two Brave Officers.

In a further telegram to the Czar concerning the renewed attempt of the Japanese to block Port Arthur, Vice-Admiral Makaroff says: "I respectfully report that the enemy having withdrawn, I returned to the harbour with the fleet. The torpedo-boat *Silny*, which stranded on a reef, in consequence of damage caused to her engines by one of the enemy's shells, was got off in the course of the night and entered harbour, thanks to the energy of the crew. Her commander, Krivitzky, who was slightly wounded in the arm, did not quit his post. On the fire-ships were infernal machines, the wires connected with which were cut by Lieutenant Kedroff and Ensign Pilondsky, of the Irregulars, whom I dispatched on this task. They boarded one of the steamers as soon as it stopped, cut the electric wires, and extinguished the fire, which would have lit up the entrance of the harbour to the enemy in the roadstead. In the morning a floating mine was found bearing an infernal machine. The latter was successfully removed. An inspection which was made showed that the steamers utilised as fire-ships were not old, and were each about 2000 tons burthen. They were armed with light guns."



THE WIDENING OF LONDON BRIDGE: LORD MAYOR AND OFFICIALS WALKING ALONG FOOTWAY TO DECLARE SAME OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Japanese on the Move.

Mr. Bennet Burleigh reports to the *Telegraph* that large bodies of soldiers with immense quantities of stores continue to march to the northward, passing out of the western gate of Ping-yang, where a bank and stores have been opened. The Buddhist temple is stacked with army provisions. The Japanese troops are most orderly in their behaviour, and as a result have won the confidence of the Koreans. The *National Zeitung* anticipates that the Japanese forces will shortly converge upon the sole practicable line of march along the coast by way of Seng-cheng, Yong-cheng, and Yongampo, and that the first decisive engagement on a great scale will probably take place in the neighbourhood of Wiju, at the mouth of the Yalu River.

The Japanese advance guard is reported to have occupied Hai-ju, a seaport south-west of Anju, on March 27.

An addition to the official account of Admiral Togo's second attempt to "bottle up" the Russian fleet in Port Arthur is made by Reuter's correspondent at Tokio, who says the official report also contains the following passage—

"Commander Hirose and Boatswain Sugino, who were killed, displayed admirable courage. Sugino was just going down to light the magazine on the *Fukui Maru* when the ship was struck by the enemy's torpedo, killing him. Commander Hirose, after causing his men to take to the boats, and not finding Sugino, searched through the ship three times. Finding his ship gradually going down, he was compelled to leave her and enter the boat. As the boat was rowing away under the enemy's hot fire, a shell struck him on the head, and the greater part of his body was blown away, the only remaining part of this brave officer's body being a piece of flesh in the boat. Commander Hirose was always a model officer, and he leaves a meritorious example, the memory of which will be everlasting."

That the gallantry of Commander Hirose is appreciated in Japan is indicated by the fact that the Emperor has conferred the Order of the Kyte and the Order of the Rising Sun on him, and a morement has been set on foot to erect a monument to his memory. Mr. Fred T. Jane writes in the *Chronicle*: "Commander Hirose was worth more than anything the Japanese obtained in the attempt to close Port Arthur. I knew him well, and am extremely sorry that he met his fate in such an affair. He was well known in this country, having been one of the officers of the *Takasago* when she first left Elswick."

Korea Clear of Russians.

The Japanese army, advancing in Korea, has reached the Yalu. The Russians were expected to make a stubborn stand at Wi-ju, where they had prepared strong defences. But they retired to the Manchurian bank of the river without fighting. The Japanese appear to have moved forward in three columns, and one report would indicate that at Chensu, to the north-east of Wi-ju, they took some prisoners. It is assumed that Kuropatkin's forces will strongly contest the attempt of the Japanese to cross the Yalu, and the long lines of entrenchments and forts reported to have been constructed would make it appear that that is the intention.

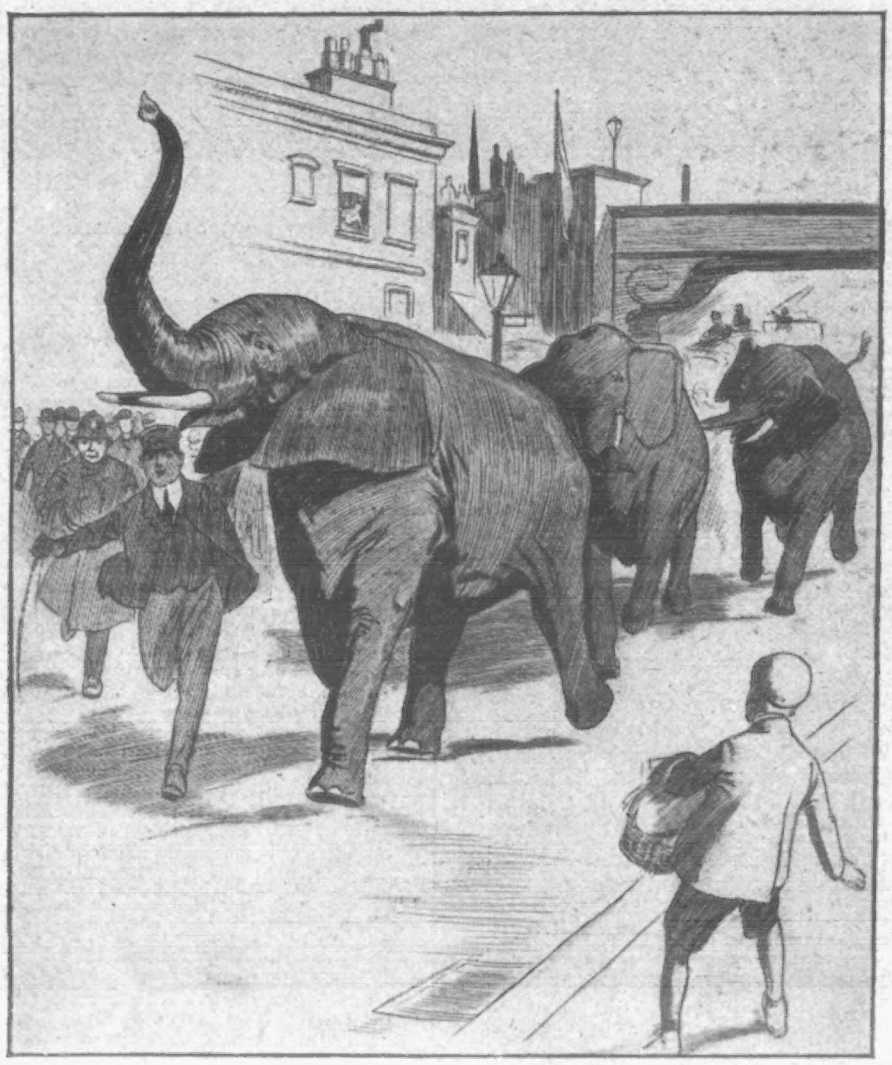
The Hon. H. Lambton. Lord Charles Beresford. The Kaiser.

Photo. Sinclair, Gibraltar.

THE KAISER'S TOUR: GROUP TAKEN DURING THE EMPEROR'S STAY AT GIBRALTAR.

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

The King and Queen.—King Edward and Queen Alexandra, who have been in Copenhagen for the birthday celebrations of the King of Denmark, have had, as usual, a busy time. On Monday morning, at eleven o'clock, King Edward received the Corps Diplomatique in Copenhagen. The audience lasted half-an-hour, and His Majesty's greetings were most cordial and friendly. After luncheon, King Edward and Queen Alexandra received a deputation from the Royal Shooting Club, of which Their Majesties are members. The president of the club presented a splendid bouquet of flowers to the Queen. In the afternoon Queen Alexandra took a long drive with her father, King Christian, while King Edward walked out with Prince



ELEPHANTS' ESCAPADE: SEQUEL TO A BIRTHDAY DRINK OF WHISKY

Hans on the beautiful sea-promenade at Langelinje. His Majesty paid a visit to Prince and Princess Charles.

Royal Yacht in Danger.—An exciting scene was witnessed at Dartmouth last Saturday night, where a crowd of spectators had assembled to witness the arrival of the Royal yacht *Osborne*, with the Princess Victoria on board. A high south-west wind and a strong tide drove the yacht out of her course as she was making for the buoys to which she was to moor. The result was that she narrowly escaped taking the ground on the ledge which runs out from Kittery Point. Two tugs went out to her assistance, but the yacht fortunately swung clear of the bank.

Return of the "Discovery."—After a three years' sojourn in the Antarctic, the exploration-ship *Discovery* has arrived at Lyttelton with the relief-ships *Morning* and *Terra Nova*, which sailed from Hobart last December. The *Discovery* left Dunedin, New Zealand, on Christmas Eve 1901, and after traversing about a thousand miles to the south encountered pack-ice. She pushed her way through this for another five hundred miles, and arrived on the coast of the Antarctic Continent on Jan. 9, 1902. A month later the vessel went into winter quarters in a bay near the foot of Mount Erebus. There she remained, locked in ice, until released a few weeks ago. Captain Scott and his fellow explorers have made many important discoveries, the full details of which are being eagerly awaited in scientific circles.

Fighting in Tibet.—A telegram from Tuna on Friday last gave particulars of a severe fight between the force accompanying the British mission and the Tibetans, in which the enemy were completely routed. The mission, with the flying column under General Macdonald, had commenced to advance on Gyangtse, when they found their way barred by a force of 1500 Tibetans. On these latter being surrounded, with a view to disarmament, they suddenly opened fire. The British officers at once emptied their revolvers, and a general fire was opened on the enemy, 300 of whom were killed, while many more were wounded or taken prisoners. Among the slain was the Depon Lhassa General. The British casualties were few.

A GRAVESEND CASE: SPECIAL "P.I.P." SKETCHES AT THE LAW COURTS.

Service Items.—The Prince of Wales or Sir George Higginson will, it is stated, be appointed to the Colonelcy of the Grenadier Guards, although in some quarters it is thought possible that the Duke of Connaught may be transferred to the position from the Scots Guards. No emoluments now attach to these commands.—Brevet-Colonel R. Cooper, Irish Guards, has been appointed to the temporary command of the 1st Guards Brigade at Aldershot, in succession to Colonel the Hon. C. Harbord, Scots Guards.—The 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers embarked on the transport *Dunera* last Monday for Gibraltar. On arrival there the *Dunera* will convey the 2nd Battalion Royal Garrison Regiment to South Africa, and bring home from the Cape the 2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, which will be stationed at Belfast.—The 1st Suffolk Regiment will provide the infantry garrison for the Tower of London when the 3rd Scots Guards go to Pirbright Camp on or about the 25th inst.—The 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, with drafts of the Royal Garrison Artillery, embarked on Wednesday for Malta in the transport *Soudan*. The *Soudan* will convey the 2nd Battalion Cameron Highlanders from Malta to the Cape, and bring home the 2nd Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment and the 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.—The 1st Battalion North Lancashire Regiment left Devonport for Ireland on Tuesday, and will be stationed at Kinsale. They are replaced at Devonport by the 2nd Battalion Somersetshire Light Infantry.—The entire Mediterranean fleet will go to Naples on the occasion of President Loubet's visit to the King of Italy.—Much satisfaction is felt at the compliment paid to the Irish people by the Admiralty in changing the name of the *Black Prince*, stationed at Queenstown, to that of the *Emerald*.—News has been received from Bermuda that the first-class cruiser *Drake* has broken the world's record for war-ships in the remarkable speed she developed in her run from England to Las Palmas. On a speed trial the *Drake* averaged twenty-four knots an hour, and practically ran away from the other ships of the squadron.

Serious Accident to Artillerymen.—While gun practice was in progress on Bulford Downs, Salisbury Plain, a serious accident occurred, in which one non-commissioned officer and three men of the 100th Field Battery were badly injured. The battery were firing blank ammunition when the breach of a gun exploded. One of the men had his hand nearly blown off, and the others were severely cut about the face. All four were conveyed to the military hospital for treatment.

Deserter's Dash for Liberty.—While being taken from Derby to Weymouth a naval deserter jumped from the train while it was in motion, waded through a river, and darted across the fields. The officials sprang after him, and were joined by two porters. After a hard chase the man was captured by a farmer.

A Gravesend Case.—Last week Mrs. Sheppard, of the Commercial Inn, Gravesend, sued her husband in Mr. Justice Lawrance's court for the return of money, jewellery, and furniture which she alleged he had wrongfully detained. The jewels were presents from grateful patients, Mrs. Sheppard having been a nurse. Mrs. Sheppard's story with regard to the money is that she gave her husband two cheques to cash, and that he had never given her the proceeds. After the marriage they went to live at Ilford. Soon after, greatly against her wishes, Mr. Sheppard bought the Commercial Inn. Then, in the words of Mr. Kemp, K.C., who appeared for Mrs. Sheppard, "the fat was indeed in the fire." Owing, as she alleged, to the bad treatment she received, the wife had to leave her husband—through the bed-room window, Mr. Kemp said, by climbing down knotted sheets. Mrs. Sheppard's own version later was that a sailor brought a ladder, by means of which she and her maid escaped from the house. There were proceedings in the Gravesend Police-court, the husband was ordered to allow his wife £2 a week maintenance, and they now live apart. Mr. Sheppard, who is probably twenty years older than his wife, said all the trouble was brought about by his wife's hot temper. The jury found for Mrs. Sheppard, awarding her £5.

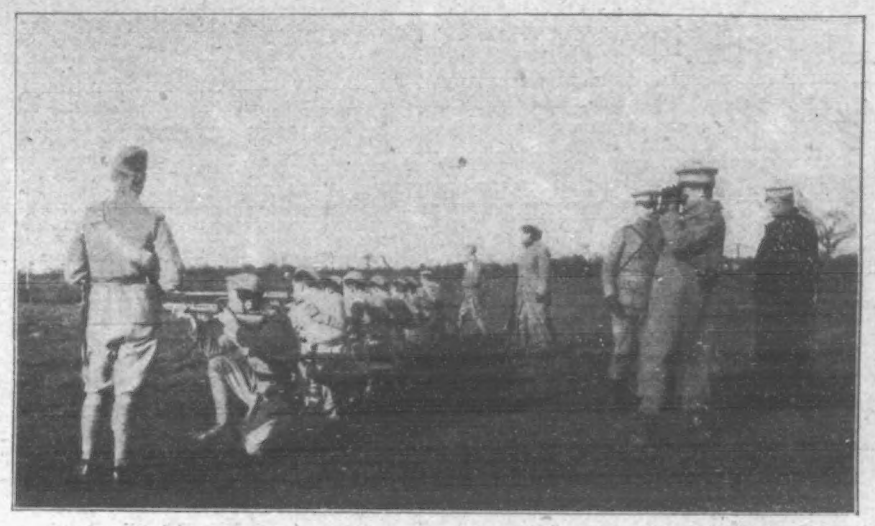
Elephant's Escapade.—When an elephant celebrates her third birthday with a bottle of whisky, interesting developments may be expected. Such is the moral to be gathered from the exploit of Vinegar, one of the troupe of elephants that belonged to the late Mr. Lockhart, which has now, with her three companions, been acquired by Captain Taylor. Vinegar's birthday was one day last week, but the effects of the whisky carouse did not manifest themselves until the day after, when the animals were being

Photo. Adelphi Press Agency.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN IN ITALY: STARTING FOR A WALK IN NAPLES.

"WHY BE A PRISONER?"—AN ARTICLE BY HOUDINI (FULLY ILLUSTRATED).—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

EASTER VOLUNTEER MANŒUVRES: THE CYCLIST CORPS MAKES A BRIEF HALT ON BARNES COMMON.



EASTER VOLUNTEER MANŒUVRES: THE INNS OF COURTS CORPS VOLLEY-FIRING AT BISLEY.

Photographs by Callcott.

removed from Hoxton to a stable in the vicinity of the South London Music Hall. "Viny," as she is affectionately termed, is gifted with a sense of humour, and the spot where the railway bridge crosses the Lambeth Road seemed to her to be a fit place wherein to indulge in her passion for comedy. She had been taught to do the "cake walk," and this dance she rendered with much spirit. Her example was followed by her companions, and a whistle from a passing train added further to their ponderous exhilaration. "Viny" set off down the Lambeth Road as fast as a man can run. She was joined by her comrades in mischief, each catching the one in front by the tail (also a stage trick). The three covered a distance of three-quarters of a mile before stopping, and the escapade was only terminated by "Viny's" unfortunate difference of opinion with a heavy lorry, in which the three-year-old came off a poor second with a sore head. She was quite sobered, and allowed herself to be led home.

Ameer's Brother Shot.—It is reported that Nasrulla Khan, brother of the Ameer, who visited this country in 1895, has been severely wounded by a pistol-shot fired by his half-brother, Mohamed Umar Khan, during a quarrel.

Death of a Judge.—We regret to announce that Mr. Justice Byrne died on Monday night, at his residence in Lancaster Gate, of acute bronchial pneumonia, supervening on a cold. His Lordship had only been ill for a few days. Sir Edmund Widdrington Byrne, who was appointed a Justice of the High Court on Mr. Justice Chitty's promotion in 1897, was one of the most painstaking and methodical Judges on the Bench. His rule was to have all pleadings and other documents concerning cases awaiting his judgment arranged and tabulated in the most orderly manner. His favourite recreations were golfing and cycling, but the exercise from which he professed to gain most benefit was that of walking daily between his home and the Courts. Sir Edmund's home at Lancaster Gate was rich with relics of all ages, and collected from all parts of the world, which proved the great interest taken both by Lady Byrne and himself in the antique. His mind was so evenly balanced, and his nature so kindly, that he is said never to have lost his temper either at the Bar or on the Bench, or in the House of Commons—where he was always known as "a very hard fighter." The late Judge's Parliamentary career—which, of course, ceased in 1897—began in 1892. During the five years he was Conservative M.P. for Walthamstow, having so well "nursed" the constituency from '90 to '92 that he was returned by a majority of 1150 votes.

The Pollard Divorce Case.—Before Sir F. Jeune and a special jury, the hearing of this remarkable case, in which the King's Proctor intervenes to prevent being made absolute a decree *nisi* granted to Mrs. Kate Pollard, was last week resumed. On going into the witness-box, Mrs. Pollard stated that she was married to respondent in July 1891, and lived with him down to April 1901. During that time her husband was always in public-houses, and never at home. She had never authorised Slater's people to make Mr. Pollard drunk and get him to misconduct himself. Witness admitted that it was Mr. Knowles who had enabled her to file the divorce petition. George Henry, manager to Slater's Inquiry Offices, was next examined. He said that the Pollard case came to them through Mr. Knowles. It was not true that he and Slater and Osborn, the solicitor, arranged that Mr. Pollard should be induced to misconduct himself. He also denied all allegations made as to his supposed remarks on the question of getting Maud Goodman's statement. Mr. Henry Scott was then called. He admitted that he was the proprietor of Slater's agency, and that in the office he is known as Mr. Henry Slater. He had taken no active part in the business since 1897. Cross-examined by Sir Edward Carson, witness said that his real name was now Henry Scott; when a child, it had been George Tinsley. Under the latter name he had been a pawnbroker's assistant, a jeweller's assistant, and a solicitor's clerk. He had left Messrs. Freshfield's employment to take a situation as shorthand clerk to a financial agent named Henry Salter. Then he had himself started business as a mortgage broker and inquiry agent under the name of Henry Slater. The sum of £2300 had been received by him from Mr. Knowles over the Pollard case. That was not a large sum for a case extending from 1901 to 1904. His office expenses were about £10,000 per annum; but no accounts were kept. The first he heard of the Jersey incident was when the King's Proctor intervened, and it had distressed him very much. The further hearing of the case was adjourned until next term.

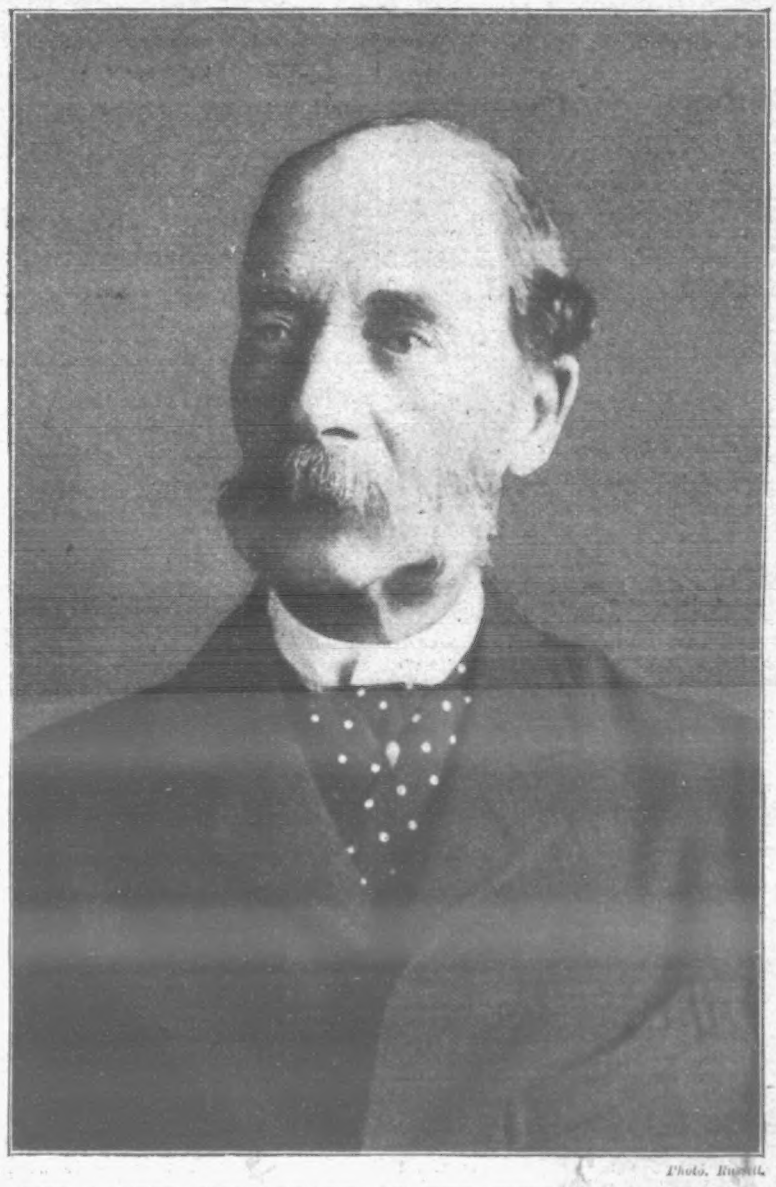


Photo. Russell.

THE LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF THE KING OF DENMARK, WHO CELEBRATED HIS EIGHTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY ON APRIL 8.

KING EDWARD AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE CELEBRATIONS.

Miners' Terrible Fate.—A shocking accident by which three miners lost their lives, occurred last week at Swanwick Collieries, Alfreton, Derbyshire. The cage, in which were six men, was descending the Old Pit shaft, which is 160 yards deep. When, about eighty yards down the shaft, the cage came to a sudden stop, owing to some defect in the conducting apparatus. The shock of the stoppage was so violent that the cage partially overturned and stuck fast. Three of the occupants—named Cope, Haycock, and Topham—were hurled headlong to the bottom and killed instantly. The other three clung desperately to the cage for an hour and a half, when by means of a rope they were rescued from their perilous position. They were brought to the surface in a half-fainting condition, and were found to be suffering seriously from shock.

Stoker Runs Amok.—While the British steamer *Arabistan* was on her way from New York to Monte Video, an Italian stoker named Gallenducci in a fit of madness killed two of the crew. He then ran about the ship, discharging his revolver, and severely wounding the captain, the first and second officers, and the chief engineer. His last cartridge expended, the man made his way into the forward hold, and defied anyone to take him. The hatch was thereupon battened down, and the vessel headed for Bahia to obtain medical assistance for the wounded, and for the purpose of giving the murderer into custody.

The Kensal Rise Murder Mystery.—The mystery surrounding the ghastly discovery of human remains encased in cement in a tin trunk, under circumstances already recorded, was cleared up at a coroner's inquiry held at West Kilburn. The story told by witnesses showed that the man, George Albert Crossman, married Nurse Sampson on Jan. 15, 1903, that he murdered her on the following day, and that he secreted the body until his attempt to remove it from Ladysmith Road, Kensal Rise, led to its discovery and his own flight and death. Crossman was shown to have had at least seven wives, two of whom were present in court during the inquiry. One of the witnesses called was Crossman's mother. She said that her son had been a baker, a barber, and a barman. He never stopped anywhere long. She thought that for some time he had not been quite right in his mind. The flight, pursuit, and death of Crossman were described by the police-sergeant and constable who were called to the house by Mr. Delf, the sub-tenant, whose suspicions had been aroused by the curious odour proceeding from the tin box. Dr. Gordon Hogg, the coroner, bestowed the highest praise on Detective-Inspector Pollard, in whose hands the investigation of the mystery was placed. For several days, Dr. Hogg remarked, there were only suspicions as to whom the dead person might be; but owing to the almost unexampled smartness and energy of Detective-Inspector Pollard, the jury would be able to identify the remains as those of Ellen Sampson, the widow of an engineer. "Crossman seems to have been a professional marrying man," commented Dr. Hogg, when endeavouring to make clear his various matrimonial ventures. He then traced at length the full history of the tin trunk and of the crime in which it was destined to play so ghastly a part. After hearing all the evidence, the jury found that Crossman wilfully murdered Ellen Sampson on Jan. 16, 1903, and that Crossman killed himself, but was not insane at the time.

BANK HOLIDAY AT HAMPTON COURT: THE "LIGHT FANTASTIC."

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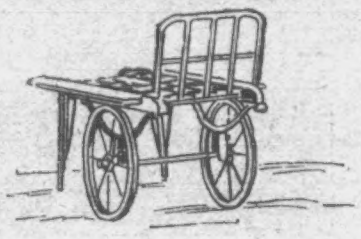
Send at once to E. P. HARRIS, The Wire King, Winter Gardens, BLACKPOOL.

"P.I.P." Farmer and Gardener.

A Useful Garden Truck

THE horticultural industry is by no means well informed with regard to the implements and apparatus which are available for labour-saving in connection with both growing and marketing of orchard and market-garden produce. This is more particularly the case with the smaller and medium class of growers, whose requirements in this respect, however, while not on so large a scale as the bigger men, are, from the view of economy, an equally important matter. It is well known that the larger growers, in order to make the most of their opportunities, are usually keen upon purchasing



A USEFUL GARDEN TRUCK.

anything that will aid in this direction. I shall be pleased to place any inquirer in communication with a firm making a special line of these mechanical aids in market-gardening work. The wheeled truck illustrated can be used for a variety of trade purposes.

Tomatoes in the Open Air.

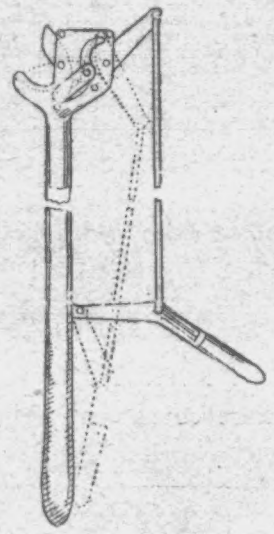
No one need be deterred from growing tomatoes because he has not got sunny walls, says a writer in *Gardening Illustrated*. If they have got sheltered places in the garden, where the sun's rays fall full upon the plants from early morning until late in the afternoon, they will probably get heavier crops very nearly as early as those on the walls, as they get the light and air all round them in the open. The great thing is to have very strong plants that are ready to flower at once when planted out in May. I find they do not like the soil too light or loose, but make shorter-jointed wood, and produce more flower-bunches, on rather firm soil, not over-rich in manure, which is best applied after the fruit has set and started swelling; then, if the weather is hot and dry, liquid manure can be applied twice a week. I have tried a good many sorts, such as Earliest of All and Ham Green, and find that any moderately sized smooth-skinned sort that does well under glass is equally good for the open air. If the plants are set out about a yard apart, and trained with one stem to a stout single stake, and stopped as soon as half-a-dozen good bunches of fruit have set, there is little trouble in ripening a good crop. If August and September are very hot, do not defoliate more than is necessary, for many growers err in cutting off the leaves as if they were of no use. This, however, is a great mistake.

Ground Oats for Fowls.

It is the preparation and not the quality of the oats that has made the Sussex feed famous. When oats are ground with properly dressed stones it is in the dressing of the stones that the secret lies—the whole of the grain, skin and all, is reduced to a fine powder, and mixes as easily and as perfectly as wheaten flour. I have tried ordinary oat grinding, and when slaked with water the result has been such as one would expect if mixing chaff and sawdust. Nothing is taken from the oat when it is ground in the Sussex style, but everything is reduced to powder.

New Pruning Shears.

Mr. Alfred S. Boyd, of Rockville, Ind., is the inventor of the pruning shears illustrated. It belongs to the class adapted for trimming the surplus growth of shrubs and trees, and the improvement consists in a new construction which affords a very strong, light, compact, and easily operated shears that can be very cheaply manufactured. As illustrated, the shears consists of a cutter-head secured to the end of a long handle or pole, and is operated by a lever conveniently secured near the opposite end of the pole. The cutter-head consists of two similar steel plates, which are shaped at one side to form a cutter jaw. A shear-blade is mounted between these plates with its outer end projecting above the cutter-jaw. At its inner end this blade is provided with a pin whose ends project through S-shaped slots formed in the plates. The pin is connected by two links to a pin similarly projecting through these slots and secured to a rock-arm pivoted between the plates at the opposite ends of the cutter-head. This construction is shown in section in our detail view of the cutter-head. A rod connects the outer end of this arm with the operating lever at the lower end of the handle. By moving the operating lever outward the shears will be



NEW PRUNER.

opened as shown by full lines in our Illustration. The shearing-blade may be made to close down between the edges of the stationary jaw by swinging the operating handle inward to the position shown in the dotted lines. It will be observed that this construction affords a compound leverage for actuation of the shear-blades, which is very powerful, so that the shears may be worked with ease, and small limbs of trees or shrubbery be cut without excessive labour.

All Rural Readers

should make it a point to order *The Penny Illustrated Paper* to be sent them by their newsagents regularly every Friday morning. Don't leave it to chance. Order it in advance to prevent disappointment.

N.B.—The "*P.I.P.* Farmer" will be pleased to reply to rural questions sent to him through the Editor of *The Penny Illustrated Paper*, 198, Strand, W.C.

With the Spring we begin to think of cycling again, those of us who do not cycle in the winter. The question of getting a new machine may crop up, in which case a line to the British Cycle Manufacturing Company, 1 and 3, Berry Street, Liverpool, will bring you a catalogue of their "Royal Ajax" and "Silver Queen" cycles. These famous machines still retain their high qualities. The same firm have just issued the "Cyclists' Enquire Within," a very handy little book.

"Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery," yet unless that imitation be kept within reasonable limits the flattery is apt to be an expensive luxury for the proprietors of the article so copied. At the moment the market holds a number of "Crabbe" brake flatterers, or, as a *C.T.C. Gazette* writer puts it, "colourable imitations." There could be no advantage in making, even were it possible, any copy as good as the original, therefore it stands to reason that the "colourable imitation" is never what the public wants, although they too often get it. So far as the "Crabbe" brake is concerned, the company have by their trade mark made it possible for the buyer to make sure that he gets what he wants. To such an extent has the "colourable imitating" of "Crabbe" brakes been carried that the man or woman who means to have "the real thing" will be well advised to accept no brake upon which a "crab" (the trade mark) is not easily discernible.

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NOTE.—No Attempts will be considered unless the above Form, cut from the Paper, is used.

The Editor's decision on all points must be accepted as final.

THE WORLD OF PASTIME.

FOOTBALL.

A HEAVY holiday programme has told its tale upon some of our leading clubs, and evidence of staleness is very much apparent. None but the most robust of Association clubs can put in the amount of work that has fallen to their lot during Easter without the men feeling its exhausting effect.

All nine clubs in the First Division were engaged on Saturday last, and in only one case was the home side beaten, and it is worthy of note that there was not one drawn game. The unlucky losers on their own ground were Aston Villa, who went under by two goals to nil to Bury.

Sheffield Wednesday went down before Notts County, and now only lead by one point. The lacemen were playing the match of the season so far as they were concerned, for a win meant that they could face the rest of the season with equanimity, while a loss promised a relegation to the Second Division. However, the County won, and will figure in the First Division next season.

Newcastle United are only a point behind the Wednesday, and the last-named will have to pull up a bit if they are to beat the Tynesiders in the race for supremacy. Last Saturday the United beat Blackburn Rovers by two goals to one, and fully deserved their win. Manchester City are coming along very fast, and their win over Sunderland was a performance of great merit.

Sheffield United gained a well-deserved victory over Notts Forest by two goals to love. The losers had some excuse, for they had Craig, Morris, and Timmins away. The Sheffield team were also poorly represented, and the result was scarcely a proper index to the merits of the two sides.

Great interest was centred in the match between Middlesbrough and Liverpool, and the first-named, by winning the match, made it practically certain that Liverpool will figure in the Second Division. It is a pity, for the Liverpudlians have played such a prominent part in first-class football that one regrets their falling from a position they gained by sheer merit.

Derby County and West Bromwich Albion met on the County Ground at Derby, and some fast play and rather heavy scoring was witnessed. After a game in which the County were always a bit superior, they won by four goals to two. Stoke and Small Heath met at Stoke, and a very hard fight ensued, the Pottery men winning by one goal to nil.

Everton easily overcame Wolverhampton Wanderers at Goodison Park, and though they only scored twice, they had much more in hand than that score would indicate. The other holiday matches worked out very much after the manner of the games I have described.

In the Second Division Woolwich Arsenal have been trying very hard to spoil their chance of promotion. They opened the holiday well by drawing with Preston North End at Deepdale, and then came a cropper before such a team as Chesterfield. On Easter Monday they beat Glossop at Manor Field; but it was a slovenly performance, and the men played much below their proper form.

In the Southern League, Luton and Tottenham Hotspur shared the points last Saturday on the latter's ground. Luton are a tough lot to tackle at any time, but on their Cup-tie form the 'Spurs should have won the match. Southampton scored a lucky win over Brentford, the last-named having nearly all the play; and in other games West Ham and New Brompton drew, as did Millwall and Brighton and Hove Albion.

Another draw was that between Bristol Rovers and Queen's Park Rangers; a similar result attended the meeting of Swindon and Reading, and Portsmouth and Fulham had no better luck. However, playing at Wellingborough, the home side were beaten by Plymouth Argyle by three goals to one.

The Inter-League match on Monday between England and Scotland was rightly regarded as a preliminary canter to the greatest "soccer" international of the season, which will be played at Celtic Park, Glasgow, to-morrow (Saturday). The English Leaguers won by two goals to one, and though there was little to choose between the sides, the winners were a trifle the better. Singularly enough, each team did best when facing the wind, and it says much for the pluck of the Englishmen that they wiped off the one goal deficit which they had at half-time, and showed such good football in the latter half of the game that the Scots were overplayed.

The presence of Bloomer made all the difference to the team, and the famous Derby County forward is still a power to be feared. Once again he has been chosen to play for England against Scotland, and with Vivian Woodward in the centre, and S. S. Harris (a popular selection) at inside left to-morrow, the Scottish defence will have a rare handful. Our half-back line is not a great one, but with Baddeley in goal, and Crompton and Burgess at full-back, our defence ought to be all right. However, a stern struggle for supremacy is sure to be seen.

CRICKET.

There is a little agitation in the cricket world which is at present "no bigger than a man's hand," but which may perchance become so pronounced that it will bring about a revolution in the arrangement of fixtures. No less a personage than Mr. G. L. Jessop has proposed that first-class matches shall commence on Tuesdays and Fridays instead of Mondays and Thursdays, as hitherto. The Gloucester captain has the everlasting subject of "gate" in view, and he contends that big crowds will attend Saturday afternoon cricket, which is now so scarce so far as first-class or county games are concerned.

Of course there is a deal in what Mr. Jessop says, and I happen to know that some other prominent personages are in favour of the proposal; but I don't think the time is ripe just now for such a radical change. As a matter of fact, the project cannot come to pass until we have a thorough threshing-out of the idea to increase the length of England v. Australia "test" games in the Old Country. Still, the matter is worth thinking over.

Everybody who knows cricket well has had some sort of acquaintance with Mr. W. J. Ford, whose personality came out as much in his writings as in his speech; and it is sad indeed to know that we shall see him no more. The eldest of the famous family of cricketers died last week-end after an attack of influenza, and he was buried on Tuesday at Kensal Rise amid widespread expressions of sorrow from all classes of cricketers.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING.

There was some smart racing both on foot and on cycle during the holidays. I saw some of the best motor-racing at Canning Town, in which Crundall and the two Colliers took a prominent part, and there were also many interesting bicycle events. At the Crystal Palace on Monday there were nearly 20,000 people to watch the Anerley B.C. sports. Included in the programme were open level races at half a mile and ten miles. The former event went to H. D. Buck of the promoting club, who defeated the champion, A. L. Reed, of the Polytechnic B.C., by two yards in 1 min. 15 2-5 sec. In the ten miles race Reed rode grandly at the finish, and beat Buck by two lengths, the time of the race being 26 min. 3 sec. Reed also was

THE OPENING OF THE CRICKET SEASON: HUMOROUS SKETCHES BY FRANK REYNOLDS.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

prominent in the half-mile handicap, finishing third, from scratch, to E. McDonough, of Putney, who had 80 yards start.

Alfred Shrubb was another celebrity to add to his numerous honours on Monday. Running at the Leatherhead sports, he won the three miles invitation level race and also secured third prize, from the scratch mark, in the mile open handicap. In the longer-distance event he practically had a "walk-over." He covered the first mile in 4 min. 51 sec., two miles in 10 min. 12 sec., and the full distance in 15 min. 29 sec. J. Wealt was second, 200 yards behind the winner, and D. Razzell third. Both the latter are Epsom Harriers.

RACQUETS.

To Mr. Vane Pennell has gone the honour of defeating Mr. Eustace Miles in the amateur tennis championship. His American service proved an important factor in gaining him the victory by three sets to two, Mr. Miles evidently being unprepared for it. But all the same, I am constrained to think that if the match were played over again, the winner of the "Challenge Round" would not be Mr. Pennell. Mr. Miles, however, has had a long run as champion, and it is just as well that the honours should go round.

GOLF.

From among a distinguished entry at Cannes, which included H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael, Lords Hampden, Lord Churston, Lord Suvile, Sir M. Wood, Sir E. Sassoon, and Mr. R. F. Doherty (the winner of the Grand Duke Michael's challenge cup), was Mr. C. A. Palmer, the prominent Birmingham golfer. He played exceedingly well, and came out of the two rounds with 153. He also took the scratch gold medal. Mr. M. C. McNamara was second with 157 in the handicap, and won Lord Glenesk's prize for the lowest net score for the first round.

BILLIARDS.

Stevenson won the first of his three great matches of 18,000 up each with Dawson last Monday, when he got home first by 1884 points. His success was foreshadowed by the early play in the struggle, but Dawson is such a terrier that one never can be sanguine about tipping an opponent to beat him, unless, indeed, he occupies such a hopeless position as he did at the end of last week's play. I should not care to oppose him for the next match. BANSHEE.

THE RACING WORLD.

THIS week the Racing World has taken more interest in the bulletins concerning little Hardy than in any other news appertaining to racing folk or racing developments. Ill fate seems to be the portion of Northampton, season after season, as the people will not keep clear of the running-track, and so make for themselves and jockeys dangers which now and then are very painfully realised, as in this race. When Hardy came down it was said that he was trying to clear a man and a child who had trespassed on to the running-ground. Kemmy Cannon, who was riding just in front of him, came into the weighing-room after the race and said that Hardy had been following him till the leader heard a crash but was too occupied in keeping his own horse safe to look round. Even now the damaged jockey, who broke a thigh, cannot tell how his disaster was brought about. He knows that his horse dashed into two posts; and onlookers know that the animal when loose, knocked down some people and hurt them.

Coming as it does after the mishap which practically put an end to Sam Loates's career as a jockey, this latest accident on Northampton Common may be read as the last nail in the meeting's coffin; for the Jockey Club cannot license the place again unless structural alterations are made, which those entitled to use the public ground would scarcely permit. Another disaster carrying very serious money consequences can also be blamed to the course's defect. Jupiter Pluvius carried off the Northamptonshire Stakes with any amount in hand, but he was rather too full of go at the outset, and took his pilot inside one of a series of posts put up to mark the course, and so was disqualified. There would have been very little expense in putting up a temporary fence, and it was a thousand pities something of the sort had not been done.

Monday's racing was in the aggregate tremendous as regards the numbers it attracted to the various courses. Steeplechase meetings of different sorts were scattered about all over the country, and besides the very important National Hunt affair at Manchester, there was flat-racing galore, including the big holiday gathering at Kempton Park. There, as at Manchester, the crowds seemed almost too big for the spacious accommodation. At both places the going was good, and sport most interesting. Fallon's stable, who do not seem able to make a mistake when they put their money down in earnest, carried off the Queen's Prize with Ypsilanti, who won the moment that Dillon gave him liberty to cut his field down. Really, out of the large troop who started were only four dangerous at any time—these were Cormack, who made running for a mile; Morgandale, on the rails, who cut out the pace when Cormack could no longer keep his place; Aggressor, who at the bend looked very much like winning; and Ypsilanti, the aforesaid, whose coming was late but most effective. Quite wonderful is Fallon's success in good handicaps; and as for money, why, the federation, who bet very heavily, have taken pretty nearly all the money out of the ring that there was to win on the events they carried off.

Not quite so good a field as was expected came out for the Lancashire Steeplechase. Mostly the Grand National horses made only a moderate show. That seems to be a race by itself, as animals that have been thoroughly wound up for it seldom do very much good afterwards. One can scarcely wonder at that, if the Aintree going suits them, for that is just as extra stiff and uncompromising as the Manchester obstacles are easily negotiable; but besides that, trainers have a habit of timing horses for the National; so that if you keep on with them after that race they get stale, and letting them down for a while means their going back in condition, so that you cannot make them fit again in time.

As it was, only two horses out of sixteen runners were backed with confidence; these were John M.P., who started at 100 to 30, and Royal Drake, a 6 to 1 chance. Mr. Morrison's five-year-old and Royal Drake were in the vaf together as far as the first open ditch when, the latter came to grief, but John was always there or thereabouts right on to the end of the three and a half miles gallop, during which all manner of grief had to be recorded. Knowing what fine speed the young one had, his backers scarcely dreamt of defeat when, a mile from home, he came away, with Lord James clear of Fairland. But the five-year-old was giving the six a stone, which means a great deal towards the end of a tiring journey, and was quite sufficient handicap to account for Lord James triumphing by a neck. Among the failures can be mentioned Royal Drake, who fell at the first open ditch, Deerslayer, who came a cropper; Inquisitor, who when beaten off appeared to lose his head altogether, and charged wildly into the rails near the Paddock. Alboin croppered, Moifaa and Maisie II. had to be pulled up, and The Gunner too. Fairland, whose history in this race was remarkable, was a bad third. It was John M.P.'s habit of jumping skew-wise that cost him the race, and he was perhaps lucky to get through without knocking some other competitor over. BENDIGO.

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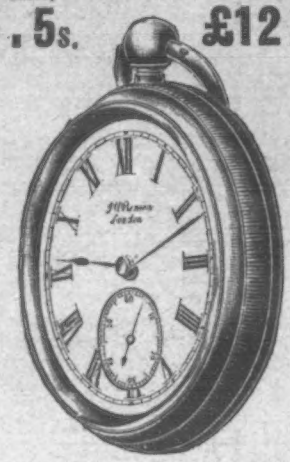

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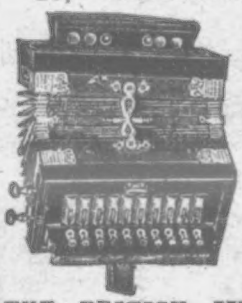

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MR. WM. LOCKWOOD.

SOME CHARMING PICTURES FROM THE ROYAL INSTITUTE.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

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THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR: BRAVERY OF TWO RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

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THE WORLD OF WOMEN.

DESPITE the cold of last week and the altogether mixed weather which visited us, the Easter holidays brought us a sight of the sun more prolonged than we have experienced for some time. But for the wind, which was pretty high, the weather from Good Friday to Easter Monday would have been perfect. Now that the Spring bids fair to be with us, you cannot do better than send for a copy of John Noble's new catalogue of spring fashions, and comfort yourselves by seeing for what very moderate prices you can buy stylish and useful blouses and frocks. On page 3 of the catalogue there are sketches of

Six Very Smart Blouses,

and the highest price for two of the models is 12s. 6d. The first of these two is made of handsome black merv silk. It is made with a shaped yoke of gathered silk, bordered with tucks and insertion; the sleeves are trimmed to match. It fastens at the back, and there is a folded belt of black satin, which is 1s. 11½d. extra. The second model, which is 12s. 6d. also, is made of very rich Japanese silk. It fastens in front and has a detachable collar. The sleeves and back and front of this blouse are finely corded and tucked, and it can be bought in cream, pink, turquoise, and black. Judging from the sketches and from the high reputation of John Noble for good materials and cut, these blouses are very cheap indeed. Other blouses there are for 4s. 9d., 4s. 11½d., and 5s. 11d., and all of them are excellent value for the money. There is also one for 7s. 11d., made of Japanese silk, with fronts of handsome silk embroidery. This model is, I imagine, unlined. Each blouse bought will be packed carefully for 4d. extra, and if the goods do not come up to the advertisement, the money will be returned. Nothing is said about misfits, but if the models are in one size only they cannot, of course, fit everyone. On the page next to the sketches of blouses there are sketches of some of John Noble's really marvellous dresses for half a guinea. These dresses are

Made in Serge,

zibeline, and vicuna twill. Any of these materials can be made to order from measurement at a higher price, but the regular stock sizes fit figures of 34, 36, or 38 in. round bust, under arms, and with waists of 24, 26, and 28 in. The skirts are 38, 40, and 42 in. long in front. Orders for over £1 are sent carriage paid in Great Britain. On the front page of the cover there is a sketch of

A Very Pretty Coat

with the wide sleeves and deep shoulder-cape now so very much worn, and the price is extremely moderate, only 19s. 6d. If I were to go through this wonderful catalogue page by page I should have no space left for any other subject; but I must not fail to recommend my readers to send at once for the little book to John Noble, Limited, 57, Brook Street Mills, Manchester. It will be sent to any address that is forwarded to the firm. I wish I could pay a flying visit to Brook Street mills myself in order to inspect some of these wonderful goods; but, unfortunately, it is not possible for me to do so. Others who are tied to town as I am can do their shopping by post easily enough; and perhaps on receipt of a safe trade reference or a deposit, a box of goods would be sent on approbation.

Meanwhile, the women who are not forced by circumstances to be economical can study the advertisements in the *Lady's Pictorial* for April 2, and learn what very smart and pretty garments await the opening of their purses at Peter Robinson's and other famous drapery establishments in London. I have just been seized with a desire to possess one of the

Smart Morning Gowns

advertised by Shoolbred and Co. for 12s. 9d. It looks so pretty and comfortable. By the way, Shoolbred and Co. will send their new catalogue of spring goods post free on application. Messrs. Dickins and Jones are selling Irish hand-made embroidered linen shirts in all sizes, and white linen only, for from 13s. 9d. up to 59s. 6d.—three pounds all but sixpence—and shirts in fancy delaines at from 8s. 11d. up to 15s. 9d. in all sizes.

To turn from the delights of fashion to a subject more prosaic, but not less interesting in its own way, I may mention that an "anxious parent" asks me how she and the father of a lad with a great taste for music and

A Beautiful Voice

should set to work to get him attached to a cathedral or church choir. There is a choir school connected with St. Paul's School, and a written application should be sent to the headmaster. A printed form will then be sent, which must be filled in and signed by the parents, the present schoolmaster of the boy, and a clergyman who knows the family. A certificate of baptism must be sent also. I believe that the boy must be under ten. If all is right with his qualifications, his name will be entered on a list of candidates, and a notice will be sent giving the date of the next examination. The choristers of the Temple Church live at home, but they are educated at the expense of the benchers of the Middle Temple, and many other good things come to them; but they are kept very busy, as in all large churches, and in some small ones also, there is a great deal of choir practice going on. It is an excellent thing for a boy with a good voice and fine ear to be a chorister. Many of our best male singers began their musical careers as choir-boys.

Here is a practical hint for housewives who have

Washing Done at Home.

It was given to me recently to pass on to my friends. Use a clean new fire-brick for the irons instead of the ordinary ironstand. The brick keeps the iron hot much longer, for, being a non-conductor of heat itself, it does not draw the heat from the iron. A fire-brick can be bought for a few pence. MARGUERITE.

A RECENT DESIGN IN GREY.

A GOWN OF CREPE-DE-CHINE.

THE REOPENING OF LONDON BRIDGE.

LONDON saw an interesting, and by no means unimportant, little ceremony last week, when the Lord Mayor officially opened the newly widened London Bridge. It was in itself only an official opening, as during the whole difficult business of reconstruction the bridge has not been closed for a single day to traffic, though for a short time only a single line of vehicles could pass across the narrowed roadway. Now things are very different. Probably, for its importance, no great London artery was more incommodious than London Bridge used to be. Hundreds of thousands of foot-passengers pass over it every day, and an enormous number of vehicles, and the result used to be a constant succession of blocks. It was worst of all on the pavements, which were absurdly narrow; so the Bridge House Trust determined with the funds at their disposal to undertake the difficult engineering feat of widening the bridge. This, despite the expenditure of £100,000, they have managed to do without a single penny from the ratepayers, and now London Bridge is 65 ft. wide, or 11 ft. 6 in. wider than it used to be. Only half a foot has been added to the actual roadway, which is now 35 ft. in width, but the absurdly narrow 9 ft. 6 in. pavements have both been increased to 15 ft. To mark the accomplishment of this big task, Sir James Ritchie, the Lord Mayor, with the Lady Mayoress, and the Sword and Mace Bearer, and the City Marshal, attended on Monday afternoon, and after a reception and speeches in a marquee erected on the north side of the bridge, a procession was formed. The Lord Mayor then parted two cords which barred the extension and declared new London Bridge open. It will unquestionably be a great boon to the City, and is undoubtedly a vast improvement.

MISS JULIA NEILSON, NOW APPEARING IN "SUNDAY," AT THE COMEDY.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

"P.I.P." PLAYGOER.

THE threatened prosecution of the Empire and the Alhambra came to a climax last week, the theatrical applicants obtaining summonses against both houses. Nor are these the only cases of the kind in prospect, for I expect every day to hear of new attempts on the managerial side. There was a probability of the Alhambra being attacked on account of "Carmen," but that ballet was withdrawn and the dresses sold to an operatic manager before it was possible to take proceedings. I understand that the theatrical party will wait until the return of Sir Henry Irving, which welcome event is anticipated this week. I hear that it is likely enough that Sir Henry will advocate moderation in the conduct of the antagonistic proceedings. That is like his amiable nature, although coming home to find the Lyceum transformed to a music-hall is a sore trial for him.

The promised sale of the Surrey on April 21 is likely to cause keen competition. Mr. Moss, of the Hippodrome, and General Booth, of the Salvation Army, are expected to bid for the theatre. I said some time ago that the Surrey would probably fetch £25,000; I think now it will reach a higher figure still. The situation is excellent, and, thoroughly modernised, the house would undoubtedly be popular.

Mr. Leigh has altered his date for producing "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" to this present Friday instead of Saturday next. There was a talk of changes in the cast also; but the company will remain as I mentioned last week; and a very good company too.

The New York papers have been very complimentary respecting Sir Henry Irving. The *Tribune* says that our great English actor has exercised "a deep and far-reaching influence, and has been a power constantly working for beneficent results." Other papers declare that the distinguished actor has materially helped to bring about the present good understanding between England and America.

Mr. George Alexander will finish the temporary run of "Old Heidelberg" next Saturday. There will be a short interval occupied with rehearsals of "Saturday to Monday," which will be produced in a few days.

The Royal Opera, Corent Garden, opens on May 2 with Mozart's "Don Giovanni": the "Nozze di Figaro" is announced for May 9, "Lohengrin" for the 16th, and "Die Meistersinger" for the 20th. The orchestra will be increased for the Wagnerian music-dramas, and all the works will be given without "cuts." An excellent list of singers will take part in the operas, and Herr Richter is to be the chief conductor. The representations are to have the prestige of Royal support during the entire season, and the box-office list presents a brilliant array of aristocratic and fashionable names. Besides the operas specially named, several of the most popular works will be performed. The Moody-Manners campaign commences at Drury Lane on May 21.

The evergreen "La Poupée," with Mr. Willie Edouin in his original character of Hilarius, and Mr. Norman Salmond as the genial Friar, will be revived at the Prince of Wales's next Saturday. Mr. Roland Cunningham is to replace Mr. Courtice Pounds as the hero.

Mr. Charles Groves, who has few equals as a genial comedian, will reappear in Mr. Davies' comedy "Cynthia," in which Miss Ethel Barrymore will take part. It is curious that the characters in "Cynthia" are French, English, American, and German, and Mr. Frohman has the quaint idea of having each part represented by performers of those nationalities.

Mr. Frohman has secured from Mr. Alexander the version prepared for him by Mr. Robert Hichens of Gustave Mirbeau's play, "Les Affaires sont les Affaires." Mr. Hichens has called it "Business is Business." Before being produced in New York Mr. Alexander will shortly appear in the chief character.

Mr. R. C. Carton has finished a new comedy of social life, which will shortly be produced at the Duke of York's Theatre. The principal characters will be sustained by Miss Compton (Mrs. Carton), Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Dawson Millward, Mr. C. M. Lowne, and Mr. Dion Boucicault. THE PROMPTER.

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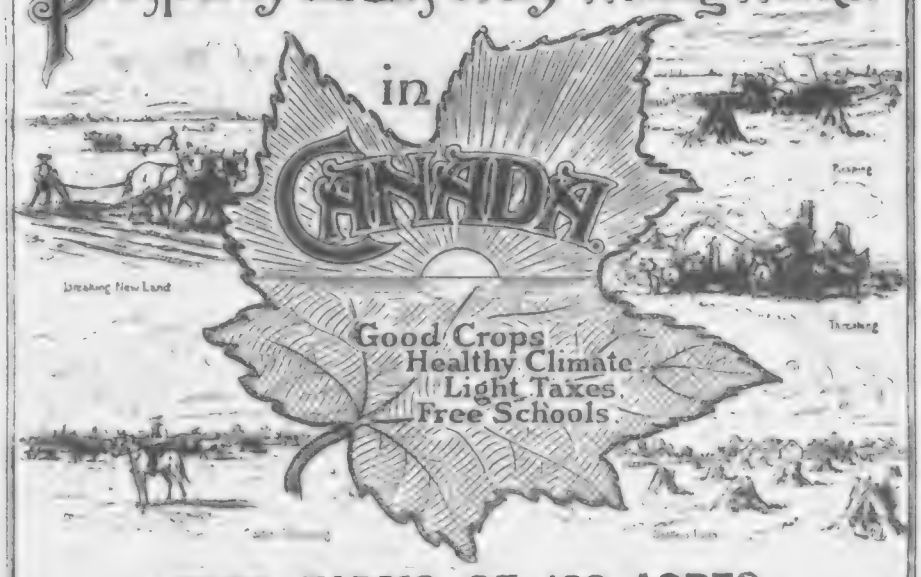

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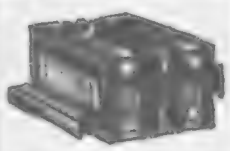
You will receive the goods to-morrow if you send a postcard to-day. Address as follows—
SCOTTISH JEWELLERY EMPORIUM, DEPT. 18,
205, BUCHANAN STREET, GLASGOW.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OR,

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BY ANNIE O. TIBBITS,

AUTHOR OF "TEMPTED," "THE CASE OF STEIL SHERINGHAM," "AN UGLY MYSTERY," "THE LORD OF LAMMAS," "HER LAST ADVENTURE," ETC.

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CHAPTER X.—(*Continued.*)

THE false Roger Fairfax stared at her.

"You were always odd," he said; "but what bee have you got in your bonnet now?"

Lady Fairfax hesitated. Her face had almost a look of terror. She was beginning to realise how completely she was in Paul Kelver's hands; and yet the mad passion in her heart seemed to drive her on blindly. She could not help herself, and Paul already knew so much that he might as well know everything.

He would help her, too. Together, they would stop at no means, fair or foul, that would put Dick in her hands; and once there, he should never repent—never, never! She set her teeth. He should marry her, and some day he would be glad he had not married that little pale-faced fool of a girl who had taken the Rowans, who had fainted so strangely the other day. What had been the cause of that, she wondered.

Her face darkened. She had always got her way; and perhaps the fact that she had never been able to win more than a reluctant admiration from Dick made her crazily anxious to win his whole love now. She cared nothing for Sir James, and Sir James had found her out; and in all her life she had never dreamt that she could love as she loved now.

"I may as well tell you" she said slowly. "You may as well know everything. I—I want to marry Dick Steeles."

Paul stared at her open-eyed.

"Marry that strait-laced, conceited boy?" he cried. "You?" He laughed sharply. "Why, you'll die of piety in six months. He'll expect you to hold mothers' meetings and attend a sewing-class, and, of course, he'll go slumming and have 'views' on waterworks and politics and agriculture. Oh! you may depend on a lively time if you want to marry him. But what are you going to get out of it?"

He stopped, watching her suspiciously. Did she expect Dick to inherit the estate? Was there something behind it that he did not know? Had Sir James signed the will after all? His thin lips set cruelly. Anyhow, it would be just as well to encourage her to marry Dick. He had her under his thumb, and she daren't betray him any more than he dared betray her; and if she did, she would get far the worst of it. It would not pay to fall out.

"I'm not going to get anything out of it," she said slowly after a minute. "Sir James means him to inherit, but the will is not complete, and—and—an accident might happen any time. Sir James might die before he signs. No, I shall get nothing out of it but Dick. Only Dick!"

Her voice dropped and some of the passion came into it. Paul stared at her in surprise.

"You don't mean to say you're sweet on the fellow?" he inquired.

Something in her face answered him, and he stepped back.

"Well, there's no accounting for the follies of a woman," he declared; "but I wonder what you'll do with him when you get him. He'll be your third. . . . Shall you poison him as you did Fred . . ."

"For God's sake, hush!" She stepped forward quickly, a look of sharp terror in her eyes. "You don't know what you're saying. It is false—false! It was all—all lies."

He looked at her curiously for a moment, then shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, all right," he said. "We won't mention it again. It was unpleasant enough while it lasted, and it might have ended badly for you, and——"

He paused, came closer, and looked into her eyes. "And, you know, it might still end badly if you are not careful. The rope might be round your neck yet; but I shall know nothing unless I am obliged. You understand?"

She shuddered. The paroxysm of fear vanished as if by magic, and she confronted him cool and calm again, but pale.

"It wouldn't be pleasant for you if you did," she said defiantly; but the conscious indifference in his eyes cowed her once more. She knew he would always scramble through somehow. He always had done. He knew how to take care of his neck, and a word—a whisper from him, would put her own in jeopardy.

She was cold and white as she turned away from him at last. The room was going round her. She had thought to bluff and cower him, and instead he had cowed her as he had done years ago—as he always had done until a week ago, when she had thought she had ended it all.

He would never forgive her, of course, for plunging the knife into his arm, and she would have to keep a sharp look-out. He might trick her in some way if she was not careful.

She stood for a moment looking out of the window at the long wide rose-garden which lay behind. The straight clean-paved walks and the long lines of carefully kept grass borders danced up and down before her eyes, and the whole garden looked black to her just then.

She thought she had killed this man, and instead, the knife had slipped aside into his arm instead of his heart, and he was there triumphing again as he always had done. She had bungled!

She drew a breath between her teeth with a sharp hissing sound, and wondered dully how it was she had got into such straits. She could remember once being a small and innocent girl. It was a long time ago, and even then she had always been daring and cruel and defiant. Now she had done so many things that it seemed to her sometimes that she had no fear of any crime at all.

"How did you get hold of Sir James?" Paul asked suddenly. "I suppose he was unfortunate—as certain others have been—and committed the indiscretion of marrying you before he made any inquiries. I suppose he has no idea that you were once tried for mur——"

"Hush!" Her face was deadly grey, but her eyes were blazing, and her voice came swift and harsh from between her perfect red lips. For Lady Fairfax had the most perfect mouth that ever deceived a man. Paul thought so now as he looked at her, even though her lips were pressed down tightly upon her teeth, and instinctively he drew back from her. Her fingers were working as though they would have clutched his throat.

"All right; don't scratch me," he said calmly. "I didn't mean to mention it again. Walls have ears, and it isn't safe, so we'll forget all the past in future. You're supposed to be my mother-in-law—no, step-mother, isn't it? By Jove, that's a lark! How do you like the position?"

His audacious eyes laughed into hers. He was again the careless, reckless, callous impostor he had been an hour ago when he had confronted Dick.

Lady Fairfax stared at him almost in amazement. He was treading a precipice, and yet if he had been perfectly safe he could not have looked more careless.

She turned away again. She could act, too, when it was necessary, but not to him. She hated him too much—hated him for being alive instead of dead, as she had intended him to be! Hated him because she was afraid of him.

He followed her, still laughing, across the room.

"No! Even though you'll have to act the part," he said. "You'll have to help me, and we shall carry it through somehow. I fear no one but Sir James. Supposing speech should come to him at the last minute? Supposing his emotion on seeing me restores all his faculties? A jolly awkward thing it would be." He paused, his face growing thoughtful for a moment.

"But he won't, though," he added an instant later. "My lucky star is in the ascendant, and I'm going to win."

Lady Fairfax looked round quickly.

"Are you quite sure?"

"Quite," he said.

"But suppose someone turns up who knew the real Roger well and exposes you?"

Paul shrugged his shoulders.

"I think I'm safe," he said. "The late lamented Roger had no friends here, or very few, and it is fifteen years ago. I knew him first twelve years ago, and then he was a clean-shaven boy, quite different to the man he was last year when—when he died."

There was an unaccountable hesitancy between his words, and he went on almost with an effort.

"He had a beard like mine then," he said. "He had the same colouring, and altogether we weren't unlike, and I easily might have been mistaken by people who did not know us very well. So that it will be quite easy to step in here. It *is* easy, as you see, for everybody recognises me; the butler, Mills, knew me, and though I don't know their faces I know the names, for Roger gave me a lot of his confidences out in America. Oh! I shall get through—I shall get through."

He was confident. He had Roger's papers; and if only Sir James was too ill to recognise him he would have no difficulty.

He whistled softly as he paced the thick carpet, and Lady Fairfax watched him with furtive, catlike eyes. He knew she did so. He knew she hated him, and that if she could kill him she would, but he was prepared now, and meant to keep a sharp look-out. She hated him, of course, and if she could give him away she would. But she dared not. She had said he had more to lose than she, but it was a lie, and she dared not interfere.

"I suppose I ought to call you 'mother,'" he said, curling his lips, "and—oh! there's the dinner-gong. We'll go down together—an amiable couple for all the world to see. I've got to confront Wilson, the lawyer, but I don't care for him. He never saw the real Roger. Well, here goes. Are you ready?"

Lady Fairfax took his arm with a set, white face, and together they went slowly downstairs.

CHAPTER XI.

IT was odd, said the servants afterwards, how Lady Fairfax took up with the master's son. They came into the big hall together arm-in-arm; and when Dr. Causton said that Roger might see his father if Sir James was prepared beforehand, Lady Fairfax volunteered to go after dinner and do it.

"Break it to him gently," said the doctor. "You must be very careful, and on no account let him be surprised. Any shock would be fatal."

"I understand," said Lady Fairfax; "I quite understand."

The doctor looked at her oddly, as if he would have said something further if Roger had not been present, and then disappeared; and Lady Fairfax and Dick and the false heir and Mr. Wilson went in to dinner.

At the conclusion, when Lady Fairfax rose to go out, Paul got up hurriedly and opened the door for her. He cast her a significant look, which Dick, seated at the table, did not see.

Paul looked at him carefully.

"I think I've got some cigars in my coat," he said; "I'll just see."

He followed rapidly on Lady Fairfax's heels, and caught her arm as the dining-room door closed behind him.

"You won't prepare him, of course," he said quickly in a whisper. "You must pretend to, but say nothing. Sit with him for an hour, and then—then let me go in."

She looked into his eyes, and something in them held hers. She shivered a little and her lips went white.

"Very well," she said, in a steady voice; but the doctor's words were throbbing, beating, burning in her heart. "A shock would kill him—a shock would kill him."

She went slowly upstairs in her trailing velvet gown—a picture such as one seldom sees—a rarely beautiful woman with marvellous hair and eyes, and yet as she went, she knew that Sir James's doomed life was in her hands that night.

She went slowly along the corridor towards Sir James's rooms, her skirts rustling as she went, her jewels bright on her neck, and in her heart the ugly, hideous thoughts.

She turned the handle of the door and went in. A nurse was sitting in the outer room reading, and she looked up as Lady Fairfax came across the floor.

"Sir James is sleeping just now, my Lady," she said.

Lady Fairfax bowed her head.

"Yes. I won't disturb him, but I'll wait for him to rouse. I'll sit with him for an hour to-night. Perhaps you would like a walk in the garden?"

The nurse rose.

"Thank you, my Lady," she said. "I think I can go safely, but I'll keep in sight of the window, and if you should want me will you draw up the blind? I shall understand if I see the light."

Lady Fairfax bowed, and watched her go. It seemed an age before she finally disappeared before she had finished getting on her bonnet, and then Lady Fairfax dropped back in a seat with a sigh.

Sir James asleep! He might sleep for an hour, perhaps, and then—then a bell would summon Paul.

She lay in a chair, her head thrown back and her eyes closed. But she was not asleep. Every sense was alert for a sound from the sick-room, and her heart was beating wildly. If Sir James died suddenly, then Roger would inherit, and she could do nothing to prevent him. She *daren't* prevent him.

She shuddered violently as her thoughts went back to the past. Paul's face, cold and cruel as it had been in many scenes in her life, came back to her now, and once again she was in his hands. Once more she had to do his bidding!

She started up cold and sick. In an hour, at his word, she would send Sir James hurrying to his death! The shock would kill him, said the doctor.

Surely she had had enough of such horrors in her life! What would happen if she defied Paul and let him do his worst?

She sank back in her chair, her face in her hands. She dared not! He held her life in his palm. She would have to do as he said; and after all, what did a few hours of life matter to one who stood on the brink of death? And the real Roger was dead—Paul had said so. And it would not be murder—no one could call it murder!

She crouched low in her chair. Her eyes searched the dimly lighted room wildly. It reminded her horribly just then of another room—a room in which a man had once lain dying of poison.

She got up and paced restlessly about, her skirts trailing over the floor, her hands pressed to her glittering eyes to keep from them the vision that would rise. Once she rushed hurriedly to the door as if she would have escaped, and then a thought sent her back.

Dick! She would marry Dick! Even if Paul got the estate, Dick would not quite leave Elverton. He had a farm of his own close by, and she would see him, and once Sir James was dead she would soon win him!

Her eyes softened and a flush came to her cheeks. She stole with a beating heart to the sick man's door, and pushed it softly open.

She stood bent for a moment to listen, and then looked in.

Sir James was lying stiffly on the great bed. He looked already like a dead man, his lips blue, his eyes only partly closed, and his hands stiff and motionless on the white counterpane.

Lady Fairfax shuddered and drew back, then, summoning courage again, went in and stood over the silent figure.

He was breathing heavily and painfully, and every now and then his face twitched as if he might rouse at any minute.

Lady Fairfax stepped to the bell and rang it. Then she went softly out into the next room and waited.

One of the nurses came hurriedly in answer to the summons, and Lady Fairfax wondered if she could hear her heart beating as she told her to go and fetch "Mr. Roger Fairfax."

She waited as the door closed and listened wildly to the retreating footsteps. She did not move, and ten minutes later, when Paul opened the door, she was still standing as the nurse had left her.

She whispered Dick's name hurriedly to herself and then turned.

"He is nearly rousing," she whispered unsteadily. "You—you had better go in."

Paul tried to search her face.

"You've said nothing?" he asked. She shook her head, and Paul went in.

He crossed the room, and, standing over the bed, touched Sir James on the arm.

The dying man started. His face quivered, and one or two broken cries passed his lips. They were not words. Dr. Causton said he would never speak again, but Paul bent down quickly to listen.

The old man's eyes opened slowly with a strange slowness it seemed to Paul, and fixed themselves upon him.

At first it was nothing but a vacant stare. Then suddenly came surprise, bewilderment, and then—a look of horror and fear.

"Do you know me—father?"

A quiver passed over the old man's face, and his blue lips parted as if words would have come if he could have spoken.

He drew a deep breath.

"I'm Roger," Paul said. "I've come back at last—after all these years."

Sir James stared hard and long into the dark-bearded face that bent over him. He stared, and suddenly the look in his eyes changed to one of rage. He struggled to rise, to lift his hands, to speak, and it was useless. He was a log, unable to move hand or foot; and Paul, bending over him still, saw the change he had expected come over him surely and swiftly. His face grew grey, a strange convulsion passed over him, and then Paul rang the bell violently and rushed back to the next room.

* * * * *

Downstairs Dick still sat in the dining-room, lingering wearily over his nuts. Opposite him Mr. Wilson was shaking his head.

"I'm afraid Mr. Roger Fairfax hasn't altered," he was saying. "He looks what they say he is. He looks a bad lot."

Dick bent over his plate.

"One can't expect him to be exactly affectionate after fifteen years," he said slowly. "He was never very fond of his father apparently, and I suppose he has not altered in that way."

"All the same," said Mr. Wilson, "he might have some respect for death itself. He was as careless through dinner as if there was no such thing, let alone his own father at death's door upstairs."

Dick said nothing. He had wanted to excuse Roger if he could, but there seemed no excuse.

"By the way, Dr. Causton thinks Sir James better," he said. "Perhaps you heard him say just before dinner that Roger could see him if he liked to-night?"

"Indeed?" said Mr. Wilson.

"I expect that was the summons for him," Dick went on. "Lady Fairfax would hardly send for him unless Sir James wanted to see him. Well, I don't think I like Roger, but after all he is Sir James's own son, and I hope they will make it up."

Mr. Wilson said nothing. Perhaps he knew Sir James better. He went on cracking his nuts calmly, his wizened, parchment face looking more like a mask than anything, and his shrewd eyes veiled.

"Well, I don't know—I don't think it would be a good thing," he said slowly and then started and listened.

There was a sudden sound of voices outside and then a rush of footsteps.

Dick looked up uneasily, and then the sudden ringing of a bell made him start to his feet. At the same moment, Mills the butler, with a livid face, rushed into the room.

"If you please, Mr. Dick, will you go up," he cried. "Sir James is worse, and they want the doctor fetched."

Dick hurried from the room and Mr. Wilson followed.

Dick sprang up the stairs three at a time, and reaching the corridor, ran along it until he came to Sir James's room.

A little group of servants stood outside. They parted quickly for him to pass, and he went in.

There were more servants in the outer room, and when he went in to the other he found a group of people leaning over the bed.

Foremost amongst them were Roger and Lady Fairfax.

They looked up as he entered, and Lady Fairfax's face was white and her voice was shaken when she spoke.

"I'm afraid it's been too much," she said. "Oh, Dick, he frightens me! He—he looks dreadful."

Dick bent forward hastily. Paul made way for him and did not move his eyes from the sick man's face as he did so.

Dick drew a deep breath as he saw him.

"Not dead? He isn't dead?" he said quickly.

The nurse shook her head.

"No, but he's dying," she said in a whisper. "I am afraid there is no doubt, Mr. Steeles."

Dick bent over. At that moment he forgot everything except that Sir James had been the best father he had ever known—a kind, just, honest old man, to him at any rate.

He touched the limp hand on the coverlet and looked into his face.

"He may rouse a little—just to recognise you," said the nurse, "or he may pass away like that. But the doctor will know better, and he will be here in a moment."

It seemed a long moment before Dr. Causton came at last, and a decided change had come

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to Sir James. There was no longer any doubt. He was dying.

Dr. Causton bent over him quickly, and then looked round, shaking his head.

He looked quickly at Paul.

"Did he seem excited?" he asked in a whisper.

"A little," said Paul; "but—but not as much as I expected."

Dr. Causton cast a quick, keen glance at him.

"Well, it has been too much for him," he said abruptly. "He will die before morning."

A quarter of an hour later when he stepped out for a moment into the next room he met Mr. Wilson on the threshold.

"The will—what about the will?" cried the lawyer quickly.

"Hopeless, I'm afraid," he said. "Though not impossible — not quite impossible. He might be able to scrawl a mark. Yet I doubt it—I doubt it. It is very late."

(To be continued.)

PLAYGOER P.S.

MR. EDWARD TERRY had some pleasant intelligence to impart at the meeting of the "Royal General Theatrical Fund." He said that the balance of income over expenditure amounted to more than £900. He proposed to increase the pay of assistants by ten per cent.

'Madame Sherry," which promised us a new third act, has not fulfilled expectations, and vanishes from the Apollo this week. An English version by Mr. Henry Hamilton of Messager's comic opera "Véronique," which was so successfully presented at the Coronet Theatre, will follow "Madame Sherry," the leading part to be sustained by Miss Hilda Moody, supported by an excellent company.

Mr. George Darey's new melodrama of modern life will be the novelty at the Islington Grand. A feature in the scenic department is a realistic view of Waterloo Bridge, the scene of Hood's famous poem, "The Bridge of Sighs," after which poem the play is named.

Saturday, May 14, is announced as the date of producing the "Prince of Pilsen" at the Shaftesbury.

Mr. Murray Carson's new theatre at the corner of Aldwych and Drury Lane has given complete satisfaction to the London County Council, and it is proposed to grant the proprietor a certificate to that effect. Drury Lane is not so fortunate, the Council having made such heavy demands on Mr. Arthur Collins that he fears he will be unable to produce his customary autumn drama owing to the length of time occupied in the alterations.

A granddaughter of the celebrated Mrs. Norton will produce on May 17 at No. 1, Belgrave Square, a poetical play with Miss Aimée Lowther in the principal character.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson has been extremely successful in New York as Hamlet. Shakspere's great play was put on almost by accident; but the public and critics have accepted it with enthusiasm.

"Timon of Athens," a play of Shakspere's that has not been presented on the modern stage for many years, is announced at the Court Theatre on May 14. This gloomy but powerful play is thus described by Dr. Johnson: "There is not much art in the plan of this play, but the incidents are natural, and the characters various and exact. The catastrophe affords a powerful warning against ostentatious liberality which scatters bounty, but confers no benefits, and brings flattery but not friendship." The characters of Apemantus, the churlish philosopher, and Timon are finely drawn.

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Miss Marie Tempest was most unfortunate during her recent visit to New York. She suffered from an abscess on one of the tonsils, but it was so skilfully removed by a New York surgeon that the talented artist expects shortly to resume her professional engagements. It is satisfactory to learn that she has completely recovered control of her charming voice.

The last performance of the Moore and Burgess and Mohawk Minstrels is announced at St. James's Hall on Saturday next. At one time country cousins used to visit the minstrels as regularly as Madame Tussaud's, the Tower of London, and St. Paul's Cathedral. But latterly they have not retained their ancient prestige. The famous and deservedly popular comedian, Mr. G. W. Moore, is, however, still living at the age of eighty-two. I remember a celebrated actor once saying, "Moore is the only nigger who can make me laugh." He was indeed "a fellow of infinite jest."

A good deal of interest and curiosity has been aroused regarding the origin of the pseudonym "Thomas Raceward," adopted by Messrs. Percival, Hodges, and Irwin, the triumvirate of authors who have written "Sunday." The riddle may be unravelled by a consideration of their Christian names, which are respectively Thomas, Horace, and Edward. With this knowledge it is easy to piece out the problem. What method was adopted in this decidedly unusual collaboration it is impossible to say, for the authors refuse to give any hint as to their working procedure, and will only admit that their aim was to tell a story in a simple, straightforward fashion.

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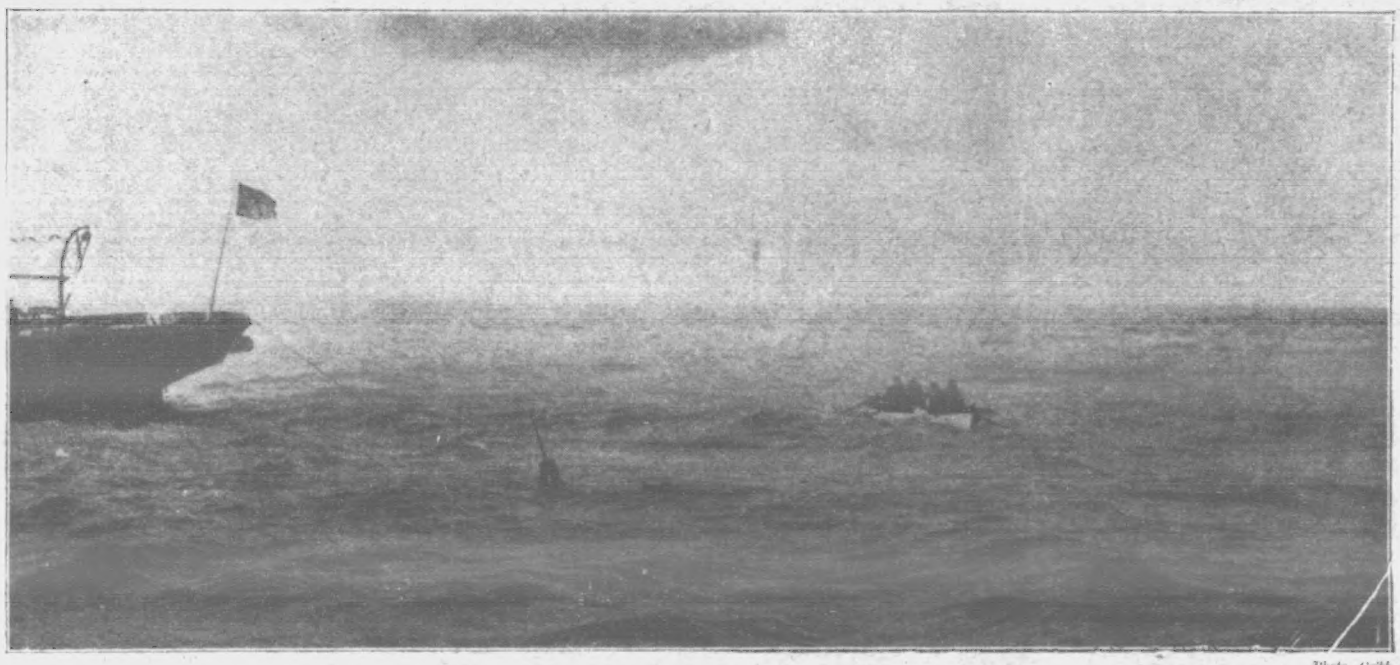

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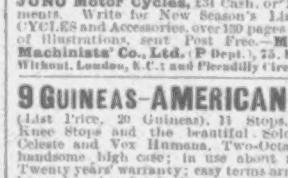

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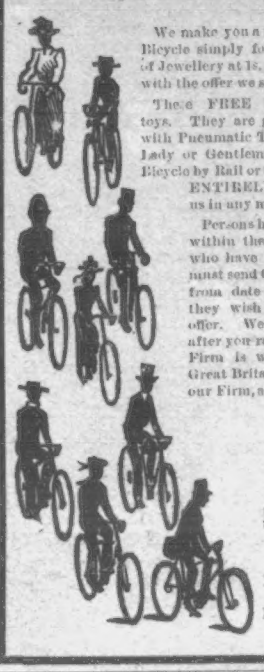

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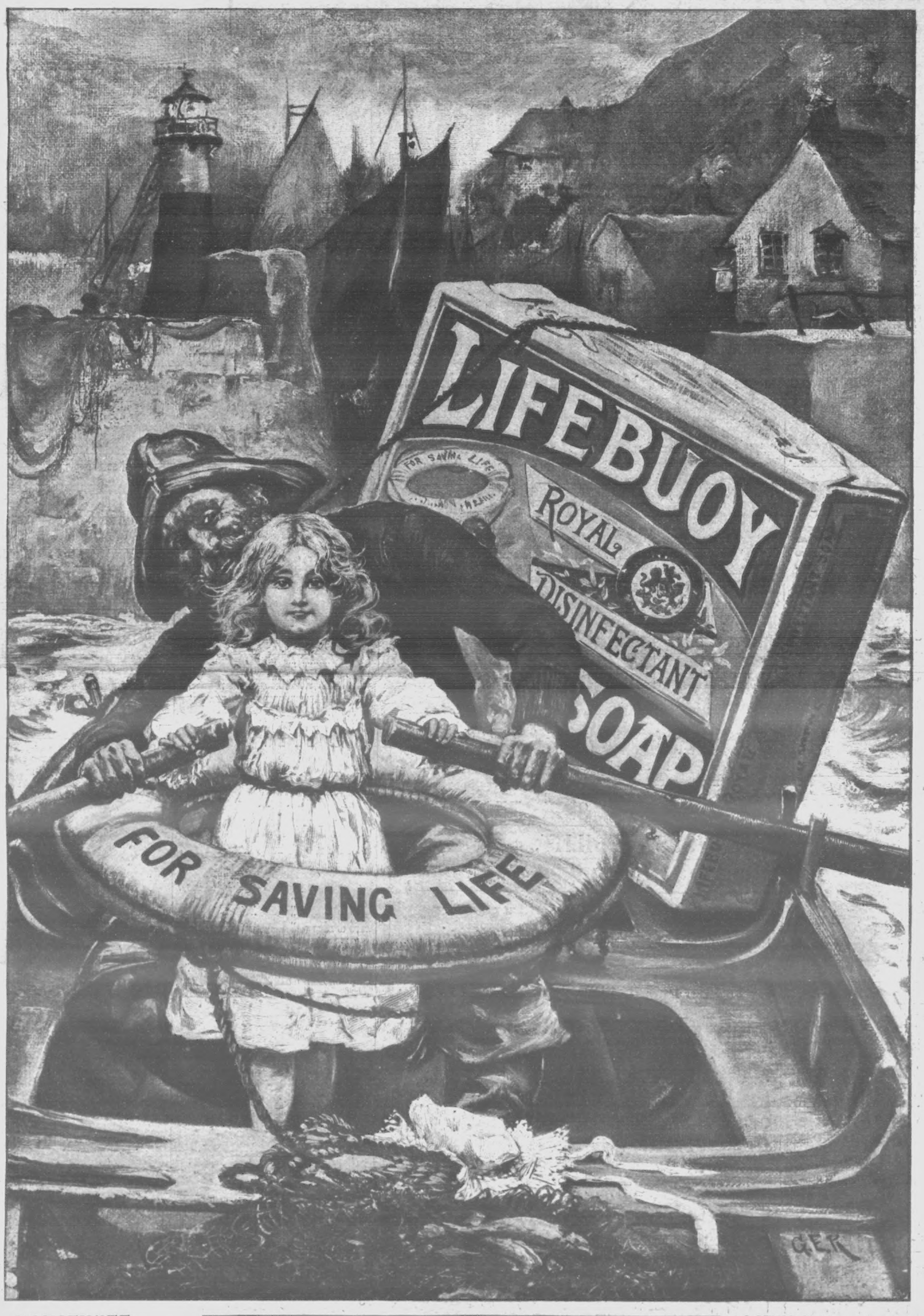

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